

Docket Number: 018984-0305363

PATENT APPLICATION

Client Reference:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

MICHAEL DAVID MAX, et al.

Group Art Unit:

CIP of Application No.: 10/266,258 et al.

Examiner: (Unknown)

Filed herewith: September 8, 2003

Confirmation No.:

For: HYDRATE-BASED DESALINATION WITH HYDRATE-ELEVATING DENSITY-DRIVEN CIRCULATION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

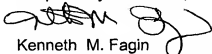
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Although the various references were cited by or submitted to the Office in the various parent applications which are relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120 and therefore do not need to be resubmitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of non-U.S.-Patent references are being submitted herewith for the Examiner's convenience.

English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are also attached hereto.

Respectfully Submitted,



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FORM PTO-1449 (modified)
To: U.S. Department of Commerce
(PW FORM PAT-1449)
Patent and Trademark Office

Atty. Dkt. No.	M#	Client Ref.
	305363	
Applicant: MAX et al.		
Appln. No.: New/Herewith		
Filing Date: September 8, 2003		
Examiner:		Group Art Unit:

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*		Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Name (Family Name of First Inventor)	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date (if appropriate)
	AR	0,135,001	01/1873	MEYLERT			
	BR	2,904,511	09/1959	DONATH			
	CR	2,974,102	03/1961	WILLIAMS			
	DR	3,027,320	03/1962	BUCHANAN			
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	HHR	4,643,832	02/1987	INIOTAKIS ET AL.			
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Examiner

Date Considered:

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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Examiner:	Group Art Unit:

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LLR	4,686,833	08/1987	HINO ET AL.			
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TTTR	6,296,060 B1	10/2001	MCCASLIN			

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BY APPLICANT**

Date: September 8, 2003 Page 3 of 4

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						English Abstract		Translation Readily Available	
		Document Number	Date MM/YYYY	Country	Inventor Name				
						Enclosed	No	Enclose	No
	UUUR	GB1 320 134 GB	06/1973	GB	Webber et al.	X		X	
	VVVR	JP11319805	11/1999	Japan	O Yoshio	X			X
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	AAAA	JP61025682	02/1986	Japan	Iwasaki et al.	X			X
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	EEEE	WO01/34267A1	05/2001	PCT	Gougel	X		X	

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OTHER (Including in this order Author, Title, Periodical Name, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)					
FFFFR	EPO – Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 61136481, Publication date 24-06-86, Muneschichi, Concentration of Aqueous Solution English language abstract.				
GGGGR	Japanese Abstract, Journal Number: G0941AAK ISSN No: 0453-0683, 1995, vol. 42, No. 7. Accession Number: 95A0492545, File segment: JICST-E				
HHHHR	Max and Chandra, "The Dynamic Oceanic Hydrate System: Production Constraints and Strategies," Offshore Technology Conference, Paper No. 8684, pp. 1-10 (1998).				
IIIIIR	Max and Dillon, "Oceanic Methane Hydrate: The Character of the Blake Ridge Hydrate Stability Zone, and the Potential for Methane Extraction," <u>Journal of Petroleum Geology</u> , Vol. 21(3), July 1998, pp. 343-357				
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KKKKR	Max and Lowrie "Oceanic Methane Hydrate Development: Reservoir Character and Extraction," <u>Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)</u> , OTC 8300, pp. 235-240.				
LLLLR	Max and Lowrie, "Oceanic Methane Hydrates; A "Frontier" Gas Resource", <u>Journal of Petroleum Geology</u> , Vol. 19(a), pp. 41-56 (January 1996)				
MMMMR	Max et al., "Extraction of Methane from Oceanic Hydrate System Deposits", Offshore Technology Conference, Paper No. 10727, pp. 1-8 (1999)				
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